

Koenings' Reeded Edge Half Newsletter #23

March 15, 2021

Dear Reeded Edge Half Collector:

2nd Census Update

So far, 7 collectors have submitted their inventories for the 2nd Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census. One collector checked his Type Book and discovered a very important 1838 die marriage.

If you need help with attributing your Reeded Edge Halves or if you need to have them converted from JR numbers to GR numbers, don't hesitate to contact me at bustcoin1@verizon.net.

Please send your inventories as soon as possible. Any recent acquisitions may still be added by May 31, 2021 for the Preliminary 2nd Census and by October 1, 2021 for the Final 2nd Census (Top 15 Collections).

Please send your Census to:

Jim Koenings at bustcoin1@verizon.net

You may also fax your Census info to (951) 242-1858

or you may mail a hard copy to:

**Jim Koenings
P.O. Box 2382
Riverside, CA 92516**

Updates will be given in the Newsletters issued prior to May 15, 2021.

When the Final 2nd Census of Reeded Edge Half Dollars is published in November 2021, it will have been 3 years since the 1st Census was published. At that time only 22 collectors reported their inventories.

Since Liberty Seated Coin Club members have now been invited to participate in the 2nd Census, I am expecting to see some big changes in the Total Reeded Edge Halves reported in this year's Final 2nd Census.

Commentary

It has always been my intention to educate collectors further in the study of Reeded Edge Halves. Normally, I try report such topics as follows:

1. The 38 most common die marriages (started August 2019, on a monthly basis)
2. The results of recent auction sales of R-4 and rarer die marriages
3. Have photos of interesting die stages
4. Give updates on the 2nd Census for Reeded Edge Halves

Recent Auction Sales

John D. of Chicago, reports the recent sale of an 1837 GR-16 in NGC VF25. It was listed on eBay on March 5, 2021 and was sold by March 6, 2021, for \$150.



1837 GR-16, NGC VF25 Obverse Middle Die Stage (MDS)



1837 GR-16, NGC VF25 Reverse Middle Die Stage (MDS)

In my list of the Top 18 Rarest Reeded Edge Halves, I now rank this coin Number 12. Dick Graham lists an 1837 GR-11 as being R-5 (31 to 75 known). Even though the above pictured coin is rated R-4 (76 to 200 known), I believe it is far rarer than 1837 GR-11. The above photo shows a coin without dentils. I have seen much later die stages of 1837 GR-16 that have a heavy die break under UNITED and on top of 50 CENTS, that have complete dentils on the reverse. The obverse of this coin has a much heavier strike. Another plus for this coin, it was attributed as GR-16 on the NGC holder.

38 Most Common Die Marriages (continued)

Since August 2019, I have shown photos and information on the 1836 GR-1 die marriage and 16 of the 19 Most Common Die Marriages for the year 1837.

In February 15, 2020's Newsletter #22, I presented information and photos on the 1837 GR-21 die marriage. Next on the list, is the 1837 GR-22 die marriage.

1837 GR-22

The 1837 GR-22 die marriage is common and rated R-2 (501 to 1,000 known). It is composed of Obverse 16 (1st and only use) and Reverse T (1st and only use). Graham lists a census of 66, 66, 65, 65, 64, 64, 64, 64, 64, 64, 63 and 63, published in 2012. In my Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census, reported in the November 2018 John Reich Journal, I had 64, 58, 55, 55, 45, 40, 40, 30 and 30 that were reported by JRCS and Bust Half Nut members.



1837 GR-22 PCGS AU55 (OGH) Obverse

The photo on the previous page, appears to be an earlier die stage of 1837 GR-22, having all dentils present on the obverse. However, **multiple curved clashing is seen up from the chest**. This die marriage is known for having weak upper stars with little central detail.



1837 GR-22 PCGS AU55 (OGH) Obverse

Perhaps the most significant attribute in the above photo is the “Die line up to the left from dentils touches right edge of lower serif of N2 and continues slightly past it” says Dick Graham (see Circle).

There is also a significant clashing that appears above the left wing, on most specimens. Normally GR-22 will also show weakness on the tops of CEN.



1837 GR-22 Reverse – Late Die Stage

The above photo shows a Late Die Stage of 1837 GR-22. The die line in N2 there, but not easy to see. CEN is weak on the top. There is buildup over the left wing and dentils are almost gone.

The Late Die Stages of 1837 GR-22, GR-23 and GR-24 all come with stretched and weak stars.

I agree with Dick Graham, he says “Many examples exist, but finding one of the early die stages that is sharply struck with above average eye appeal might take a little longer, as most encountered will be the weak perimeter later die stage”.

Next month in Newsletter #24, I will be showing photos and information on the 1837 GR-23 die marriage.

Additional Commentary

I invite readers of this Newsletter to provide me with pictures and information about your rare finds so I can feature them in a future Newsletter.

Again, If you have any comments about Reeded Edge Half dollars that I might include in future Reeded Edge Half Newsletters, please email me at or send them to:

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Riverside, CA 92516**

JRCS

I strongly recommend that all collectors join JRCS. JRCS publishes its J R Journal normally about 3 times a year. There is so much you can learn from the many articles that are published, including New Discoveries, Census Information on early silver issues, mint processes, die stage information and more. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact W. David Perkins at wdperki@attglobal.net .

LSCC

I also strongly recommend that collectors interested in Liberty Seated Coins join LSCC. LSCC publishes it's Gobrecht Journal 3 times a year by Bill Bugert. They also have their E-Gobrecht Monthly Newsletter that is published by Paul Kluth. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact Jeff Ball at jeffballphoto@gmail.com .

HALF DIME LOVERS

I have lost all interest in half dimes, I may have purchased 4 specimens in the last 11 years, the last was in 2016. I have about 94 specimens without holes and 128 with holes. They range from 1794 to 1872. I have about 81 out of 92 known Capped Bust Half Dimes, attributed by Logan-McCloskey. Mostly lower grades but still a few rare varieties. Perhaps someone out there may have a better use for these coins.

If you would like to have a list of these coins, please send your email address to: bustcoin1@verizon.net .